

Summary of Comments to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

On Behalf of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski

July 14, 2010

Oregon is very much impacted by nuclear waste generation, storage, transportation, and disposal, so your deliberations and your work are important to us.

- Oregon is only a few dozen miles downriver from the Hanford Site – and potentially impacted by contaminants reaching the groundwater and the Columbia River.
- The State of Oregon provides the primary transportation corridor to and from the Hanford Site. Waste shipments traveling to and from Hanford typically travel over 200 miles of Oregon interstate.
- Oregon is home to the former Trojan nuclear power plant, where 791 irradiated fuel assemblies are being indefinitely stored in 34 dry storage canisters.

Recommendations/Comments

- The Hanford Site is not an appropriate location to take on any additional waste storage or disposal missions. The focus at Hanford must remain fully on completing the environmental cleanup.
- Any solution to our high-level waste problem must take into consideration the transportation implications. The WIPP Transportation Safety Program is an excellent model – both in terms of the U.S. Department of Energy's partnership with corridor states, and with the above-regulatory provisions adopted for the program. It will take years to develop a national transportation program that can support consolidated storage, disposal, or reprocessing.
- Look for ways in which to deal with the waste in smaller, hopefully more manageable pieces
 - Separate, if necessary, plans for disposal of defense-generated spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste from the commercial spent nuclear fuel waste stream.
 - Consider consolidating storage of commercial spent fuel that resides at shut-down and decommissioned commercial reactors throughout the nation.